

From: Matthew Bass
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 1:22am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern,

I would like to express a deep seated concern over the pending Microsoft Settlement.

While I would be delighted to elaborate on several points - I think the best summary I've found so far can be located here: <http://www.kegel.com/remedy/remedy2.html>

I would highly encourage everyone involved with the case to review said documentation - for it does an excellent job outlining the problems associated with the pending settlement.

Microsoft has done an excellent job positioning itself as the "core" of the "Information Technology" universe. For that they certainly deserve credit. However, their business practices can be likened to those of Rockefeller's Standard Oil empire.

Microsoft does not "compete" with others. They either incorporate the competition into their empire - or they crush it (e.g. Netscape, DR-DOS, etc). There is no competition.

Beyond the lack of competition - Microsoft goes out of their way to prevent their applications (word/excel/etc) from running on NON Microsoft Operating Systems - even if the OS is "compatible" - and the application would work. The EULA (end user licensing agreement) specifically prohibits an end-user from running a Microsoft application (like Word) on a NON windows based PC. Please see the following link for more detail:

<http://www.kegel.com/remedy/remedy2.html#isv.atl>

Furthermore, Microsoft actually goes out of it's way to incorporate INTENTIONAL incompatibilities in it's products to thwart competition. Many years back there was a product called DR-DOS - which by all accounts was as good (if not better) than the Microsoft product (MS-DOS). When Microsoft moved into the realm of "Windows" - they incorporated INTENTIONAL incompatibilities into their product - so Windows would ONLY run on MS-DOS. Needless to say DR-DOS was short lived thereafter. For more information click the link below:

<http://www.kegel.com/remedy/remedy2.html#caldera>

Need I even mention Netscape?

It is imperative that something be done about the present situation - certainly more than is proposed in the pending settlement. Information Technology is becoming an increasingly important part of everyday life. It would be a greivous mistake to allow a single entity to wield such broad control.

I thank you for your time and patience - it is sincerely appreciated.

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